

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01296 311612Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /120 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1100

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, XA, TP, GB

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1286

1. SUMMARY: DURING WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR MAY 25, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (STP) FOREIGN MINISTER D'ALVA EMPHASIZED PRAGMATIC BENT CURRENT GSTP POLICIES AND, WITH REFERENCE TO ZAIRE, SUGGESTED THAT OUTSIDE STATE SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED IN PURELY AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED CURRENT US ASSISTANCE PHILOSOPHY, POLICY WITH REGARD TO ZAIRE, BRIEFED FONMIN ON WESTERN FIVE NAMIBIA EFFORTS, MADE PITCH ON US POSITION RE NEUTRON BOMB AT US SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND RAISED EQUESTION OF GSTP ACCREDITATION AMBASSADOR TO US (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR'S MAY 25 PRE-CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY CALL ON GSTP FOREIGN MINISTER LEONEL D'ALVA LASTED ALMOST TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01296 311612Z

HOURS AND COVERED SIDE RANGE BILATERAL AND AFRICAN ISSUES. AFTER AMBASSADOR HANDED OVER COPIES OF LETTERS AND APEECH HE WOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING DAY, D'ALVA STATED HE HAD ALREADY READ SPEECH (WHICH WE HAD PROVIDED EARLIER) AND OFFERED COMMENT CONCERNING OBSERVATION IN SPEECH THAT STP AND US WER BOTH "NATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS." THIS, ACCORDING D'ALVA, WAS ONE INTERPRETATION BUT NOT NECESSARITY THE ONE IN FAVOR OF STP. MOST INHABITANTS

OF STP, HE SAID, WERE DESCENDED FROM FORCED LABORERS OR SLAVES WITH IMPLICATION THAT PORTUGUESE HAD KILLED OFF INDIGENOUS STP POPULATION (EVEN THOUGH MOST HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS DENY THAT ISLANDS WERE INHABITED AT TIME OF DISCOVERY). AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT EVEN SO, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT PARALLEL HAD SOME VALIDITY SINCE AMONG AMERICANS TODAY, THERE ARE MANY WHO ORIGINALLY DESCENDED FROM SLAVES, INDENTURED SERVANTS, PERSONS FLEEING PERSECUTION AND EVEN PENAL COLONISTS. D'ALVA NODDED UNDERSTANDING, INDICATED SPEECH REFERENCE TO IMMIGRANTS NOT OFFENSIVE AND STATED THERE NOTHING WRONG IN HAVING MORE THAN ONE HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION.

3. DISCUSSIONS OF USAID CROP PRODUCTION PROJECT OPENED DOOR TO DESCRIPTION GSTP DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY AND AID ASSISTANCE CRITERIA. AFTER NOTING THAT OUR AID PROJECT WAS REALLY QUITE SMALL. D'ALVA EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT US APPARENTLY NOT INCLINED HELP STP MORE BECAUSE OF PERCEPTION GSTP PURSUED "MARXIST" SOLUTIONS AND THAT USG PREPARED HELP ONLY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH PHILOSOPHICALLY FITTED PERCEPTION OF FREE MARKET ECONOMY. THUS, HE INDICATED, IN AGRICULTURE WE INCLINED ASSIST PRIVATE FARMERS BUT NOT STATE FARMS. FONMIN ADAMANT THAT GSTP NOT "MARXIST," MAKING CASE IT PRAGMATICALLY FOLLOWING BEST DEVELOPMENT OPTION AVAILABLE CONSISTENT WITH SITUATION INHERITED AT INDEPENDENCE. STP, HE SAID HAD BEEN 80 PER CENT IN HANDS OF ELEVEN NON-RESIDENT PORTUGUESE PLANTATION HOLDERS. AGRICULTURE THEREFORE WAS ESTATE, INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE, BASED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIBREV 01296 311612Z

ON PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT WHILE ALL FOOD TRADITIONALLY IMPORTED. AS RESULT THERE IS NO PEASANTRY NOR EVEN PEASANT MENTALITY BECAUSE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS NON-LAND HOLDING WAGE EARNERS. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT STP DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY BY NO MEANS INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER TO COOPERATION WITH USG. DRAWING UPON EXAMPLES OF OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA WHERE AID COOPERATED WITH AVOWEDLY SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS, HE DEMONSTRATED THAT US DOES NOT ONLY HELP THOSE COUNTRIES PERCEIVED TO BE DEVELOPING IN ITS OWN IMAGE. CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PRECEPTS HE POINTED OUT, WERE TO HELP POOREST OF POOR ATTAIN BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IN FOOD, HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES. WHILE MAKING CLEAR HE NOT AUTHORIZED OFFER ANY AID COMMITMENT, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER GSTP HAD DEVELOPED PROJECTS IN THESE SECTORS. IN THIS REGARD, D'ALVA SEEMED MOST INTERESTED THAT US BUILD ON SMALL EXPERIMENTAL FOOD CROP PROJECT AND MOVE RAPIDLY INTO PRODUCTION PHASE.

4. PHILOSOPHICAL DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION LED D'ALVA TO ASSERTION THAT ONE REASON FOR US TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS CHANNELING ENERGY GENERATED FOLLOWING RESOLUTION INTERNAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS. THIS PREMISE LED HIM TO SPECULATION

THAT IF INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE WERE RESOLVED BY LOCAL POPULATION ALONE, IT WOULD HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS AND ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. D'ALVA CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT SHABA GUERRILLAS WERE PURELY INDIGENOUS FORCE AND OUTSIDERS LIKE US SHOULD NOT INTERVENE. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT USG HAD BEEN APPROACHED FOR SUPPORT BY ZAIRIAN CHIEF OF STATE WITH WHOM WE HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS. WE HAD ACCORDINGLY SPEEDED UP DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR AND PROVIDED NON-COMBAT ZONE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO FRENCH AND BELGIANS WHO ATTEMPTING PROTECT THEIR AND OUR EXPATRIATE COLONIES. EXPLANATION SEEMED TO SATISFY D'ALVA WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING CONVERSATION REMARKED THAT USG AFRICAN POLICY CONSIDERABLY MORE ENLIGHTENED UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER THAN PREVIOUSLY. FONMIN ALSO CAREFULLY STEERED AWAY FROM DISCUSSING ANGOLA SITUATION PROBABLY OUT OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LIBREV 01296 311612Z

DEFERENCE TO GSTP'S CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH NETO REGIME. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH TREND OF INTRA-AFRICAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS CHAD/LIBYA AND HORN WHICH IDEALLY WOULD BE SOLVED WITHIN AFRICAN CONTEXT, BT INSTEAD WERE BEING EXPLOITED BY NON-AFRICAN POWERS.

5. AMBASSADOR DREW UPON RECENT GUIDANCE TO BRIEF FONMIN ON WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP EFFORTS IN NAMIBIA AND US PREOCCUPATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE, AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. WHEN D'ALVA REMARKED ABOUT USEFULNESS OF DISCUSSION AND NECESSITY FOR GREATER INTERCHANGE, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED GSTP ATTEMPT PICK UP ONE OR MORE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED. D'ALVA STATED GSTP SINCERELY INTERESTED BUT HAD TROUBLE IN RELEASING LIMITED CADRE FOR VISITS. AMBASSADOR ALSO RAISED ISSUE OF GSTP DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION TO USG WHICH REPORTED SEPTEL.

6. COMMENT: ENTIRE DISCUSSION WAS FRANK BUT CORDIAL. D'ALVA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE THAT AMBASSADOR FINALLY IN PLACE AFTER LONG HIATUS AND HOPE THAT HIS PRESENCE WOULD PERMIT INCREASED FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF DIALOGUE. FONMIN SEEMED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE EXPLANATIONS PROVIDED AND THAT INTERCHANGE HAD ALSO PERMITTED HIM AUTHORITATIVELY INFORM USG OF CURRENT GSTP POLICIES AND CONCERNS. TIENKEN

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